

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for performing a transaction presupposing the use of a portable data carrier carrying transaction data which are accessed within the transaction, the system comprising:

a node computer connected with a plurality of terminals via a terminal network, the node computer having stored therein functionality data for providing a terminal with at least one functionality for performing a requested transaction;

each of said terminals having an apparatus for accessing a portable data carrier and being suitable for performing a plurality of different transactions[[],];

said terminals being configured to, when accessed for performing a requested transaction, identify a type of transaction to be performed and check whether the terminal is suitable to perform the requested transaction, wherein

~~in case a terminal makes a determination if the terminal is not suitable to perform the requested transaction, and based on the determination the suitability of the terminal for performing the requested transaction is providable by said~~ the terminal requests from said node computer and receives receiving functionality data via the terminal network, wherein the functionality data which provides the terminal with a functionality required for performing the requested transaction, the data for providing the functionality being made available in the node computer and the node computer supplying them to a terminal when the latter requests them after ascertainment of the requested transaction, and

the terminal performs the requested transaction ~~is performed~~ in interaction between the node computer and the terminal while accessing a portable data carrier, the terminal and the node computer each performing partial steps of the transaction.

2. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein at least one transaction is performed in interaction between a terminal and said node computer.

3. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the terminal is configured and arranged to cause transfer of the functionality data for setting up the functionality for performing the transaction.

4. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 3, wherein the terminal is configured and arranged to cause ~~data~~ transmission of the functionality data following the occurrence of a predetermined event in the terminal.

5. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 3, wherein the terminal is configured and arranged to cause ~~data~~ transmission of the functionality data following the triggering of a certain transaction in the terminal.

6. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein the node computer is connected via a background network with at least one central processing unit and the latter is includable in a transaction.

7. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 6, wherein the node computer can call data from said at least one central processing unit.

8. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the node computer has a cipherbox which processes information for encrypting and decrypting ~~the~~ data traffic effected with the terminal.

9. (Currently Amended) A terminal for performing a transaction demanding a functionality not available on the terminal and including access to transaction specific data stored on a portable data carrier, the terminal comprising

a processor unit,

a storage device connected therewith for receiving data which set up the functionality of the processor unit,

means for triggering a transaction, and

an interface for connection with a node computer via a terminal network,

an apparatus for reading a portable data carrier,

wherein the processor unit when the terminal is accessed for performing a transaction the processor unit cooperates with the portable data carrier to identify ~~identifying the~~ a type of transaction to be performed and ~~checking~~ makes a determination whether the terminal is suitable to perform the type of transaction, and

wherein the processor unit conditionally causes, based on said determination, ~~causing~~ the setup of the terminal for performing the type of transaction after ~~ascertainment~~ of identifying the ~~intended~~ type of transaction by requesting and receiving functionality data from the node computer which provide the functionality required for performing the type of transaction,

wherein the terminal performs the transaction in interaction with a node computer, the terminal and the node computer each performing partial steps of the transaction, and the terminal accesses a portable data carrier in order to take information required for performing the transaction therefrom.

10. (Currently Amended) A terminal according to claim 9, wherein the terminal requests the functionality data for setting up the functionality from the node computer following the occurrence of a predetermined event.

11. (Currently Amended) A terminal according to claim 10, wherein the predetermined event is ~~the~~ a triggering of a transaction whose performance requires a functionality which is not completely present ~~only incompletely or not at all~~ in the storage device.

12. (Previously Presented) A terminal according to claim 9, further comprising a security box which contains information for encrypting and decrypting the traffic effected with the node computer.

13. (Previously Presented) A terminal according to claim 9, wherein the means for triggering a transaction include a keyboard and a display.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A terminal according to claim 9, wherein the terminal sends a start sequence comprising information for identifying the terminal to the node computer for requesting the functionality data for setting up a new functionality.

16. (Currently Amended) A terminal according to claim 9, wherein ~~the storage device and/or the processor unit~~ operationally necessary elements of said processor unit or storage device are formed at least partly on a portable data carrier.

17. (Currently Amended) A terminal according to claim 15, wherein said start sequence comprises information about a the type of transaction ~~triggered~~.

18. (Currently Amended) A terminal according to claim 9, wherein when a transaction has been triggered the processing unit it executes all program instructions for the transaction already present in the form of data and executable ~~for this purpose~~ in the storage device and ~~optionally~~ adds resulting temporary results to a start sequence.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for performing a transaction including access to transaction specific data stored on a portable data carrier using a terminal connected via a terminal network with a node computer,

the transaction to be performed demanding a functionality not available on the terminal,

the transaction being triggered by means of the terminal,

the method comprising the steps of:

identifying the type of transaction to be performed according to said transaction specific data of said portable data card and checking making a determination whether the terminal is suitable to perform the transaction,

creating a start sequence designating the transaction to be performed and indicating based on said determination whether the terminal requires data for setting up the functionality of the terminal to perform the transaction,

the start sequence being transmitted from the terminal to the node computer, and

~~data providing the~~ functionality data required for performing the transaction in the terminal then being transmitted by the node computer to the terminal,

wherein the node computer is involved in performing the transaction, the transaction being performed in interaction between the terminal and the node computer.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein when a transaction has been triggered the terminal ~~checks~~ makes a determination whether the data already stored in the terminal ~~present in the storage device~~ permit the transaction to be performed and conditionally performs the transaction based on the determination ~~directly performs the transaction if possible~~.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a terminal suitable for performing a transaction and connected via a terminal network with a node computer involved in performing the transaction, at least one functionality being required for performing a transaction,

the method comprising the steps of:

monitoring the terminal for occurrence of a predetermined event,

transmitting a start sequence designating at least one transaction the terminal is not ~~set up for~~ suitable for performing from the terminal to the node computer upon occurrence of a predetermined event,

~~transmitting~~ receiving functionality data stored and transmitted by said node computer for providing a terminal with at least one functionality for performing a requested transaction ~~providing at least one functionality required for performing the transaction in the terminal from the node computer to the terminal~~ such that the terminal is made by said data to be suitable for performing the transaction.

22. (New) The system according to claim 1, wherein said terminal is configured to store said functionality data received from said node computer for future use.

23. (New) The terminal according to claim 9, wherein said processor unit is configured to store said functionality data received from said node computer in said storage device for future use.

24. (New) The method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of storing said functionality data in said terminal for future use.

25. (New) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of storing said functionality data in said terminal for future use.